

# **Sandy Town Council**



## **Beeston Village Green Management Plan**

2018

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This Management Plan (Plan) provides a framework for the management, maintenance and development of the Green for the benefit of the local community and wildlife.
- 1.2 The plan sets out the Town Council's approach to the management of Beeston Village Green. It is based on an appraisal of the character of Beeston and the Green, the statutory planning policies affecting the area, the role of other local authority services in the area, and the requirements and aspirations of local people.
- 1.3 The intention is it is a partnership document, 'owned' by all parties involved in producing it. The partnership is between Sandy Town Council, residents of Beeston and volunteer groups including; Beeston Open Gardens and Beeston Task Team.
- 1.4 The Plan will cover a five year period, from 2018 to 2023, but will be reviewed on a regular basis by the Council to take account of any changing circumstances.

## **2. The National Context**

- 2.1 Village Greens are managed areas of the green environment which can provide opportunities for a range of formal and informal leisure, passive and active sport, recreation and play.
- 2.2 The significance of Greens, parks, open space and countryside provision is clear:
  - In 1988 the Audit Commission estimated that local authorities in England and Wales maintained approximately 120,000 hectares of parks and open spaces - an area approximately the size of Berkshire.
  - In 2000, the Heritage Lottery Fund estimated that there were approximately 30,000 urban green spaces in the UK, of which 5,000 are urban parks (Including village greens)
- 2.3 It is widely recognised that the provision of high quality public realm green facilities can assist in making an area an attractive place to live and work. This can result in a number of additional benefits such as economic development and regeneration. A green space can also play a part in promoting healthy living as it offers the facilities and space for people to exercise.
- 2.4 The benefits of safe and accessible parks and open spaces can be summarised as follows:

### **Social**

- providing safe outdoor areas that are available to all members of the local population;
- providing opportunities for community events, voluntary activities and charitable fund raising;
- providing easily accessible recreation as an alternative to other more chargeable leisure pursuits;
- providing opportunities to improve health and take part in a range of outdoor sports and activities; and
- providing an educational resource or outdoor classroom.

**Economic**

- adding value to surrounding property, both commercial and residential, thus increasing local tax revenues for public services;
- contributing to attracting visitors, including using parks as venues for events;
- encouraging tourism into the area;
- helping to create an attractive local image.

**Environmental**

- providing habitats for wildlife as an aid to local biodiversity;
- helping to stabilise urban temperatures and humidity;
- absorbing pollutants in the air and ground water;
- providing opportunities for the recycling of organic materials; and
- providing opportunities to reduce transport use through the provision of local facilities and by providing walking and cycling routes.

### **3. Site Description**

#### **3.1 History of Beeston Village Green**

Beeston Green is a 21 hectare (53 acre) settlement with an expanse of green open land situated in the centre of Beeston. The Norman yoke, which was delineated in the Domesday book 1086, gave Beeston the layout which can still be recognised today. The Green followed on from the establishment of a manor house in the northwest corner of the Green.

#### **3.2 Legal Definition of a Village Green**

A village green is a common open area within a village or other settlement. Traditionally, a village green was often common grassland at the centre of an agricultural or other rural settlement, and was used for grazing. Some also have a pond, often originally for watering stock such as cattle.

Village greens were defined in the Commons Registration Act 1965, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, as land:

- which has been allotted by or under any Act for the exercise or recreation of the inhabitants of any locality;
- or on which the inhabitants of any locality have a customary right to indulge in lawful sports and pastimes;
- or if it is land on which for not fewer than twenty years a significant number of the inhabitants of any locality, or of any neighbourhood within a locality, have indulged in lawful sports and pastimes as of right.

Registered greens are now governed by the Commons Act 2006, but the fundamental test of whether land is a village green remains the same.

The Open Spaces Society states that in 2005 there were about 3,650 registered greens in England covering 8,150 acres (3,298 ha).

#### **3.3 Land Ownership and Responsibility**

The site is owned and managed by Sandy Town Council as the responsible minor authority, who along with Central Bedfordshire Council carry out maintenance of the site.

The enabling acts which confer the specified powers to the Council to administer and maintain the land are listed below:

- Open spaces Act 1906;
- Local Government Act 1972; and
- Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980.

Sandy Urban District Council acquired the rights of Lord of the Manor in 1952 and in 1972 a Scheme of Regulations under the Commons Act 1899 was made by that Council and approved by the Secretary of State. As the successor authority, Sandy Town Council inherited this scheme and it remains in force.

The Town Council is responsible for the maintenance, protection and upkeep of the Green and as custodian must ensure that the Green is protected against encroachment, damage and uses other than those consistent with normal enjoyment of the Green and the rights of the graziers.

In 1977 the Town Council conveyed two areas of land within the Green to Mid Bedfordshire District Council for development purposes and these remain in the ownership of Central Bedfordshire Council as does a plot of land marked on the map on page 10 which is being considered for affordable housing development, community orchard and allotments.

### **3.4 Location**

Beeston, Sandy is about 53 acres (2.1 km<sup>2</sup>) in size. It is about a half a mile south of Sandy, north of Biggleswade and east of Bedford. Beeston is within the parish of Sandy.

Beeston Village Green is nestled in the residential area of Beeston. The 13-acre (53,000 m<sup>2</sup>) green is the major feature of Beeston and bounded by many of the older residences.

### **3.5 Access to the Green**

As a free and open facility, Beeston Village Green has the potential to provide fully inclusive access to local residents and visitors to the area. Pedestrians and those arriving by bus and car can currently access the site.

### **3.6 Local Transport**

**Bus:** Beeston is served by the 73 which stops at Beeston Footbridge.

### **3.7 Landscape & Topography**

The land is low lying and flat and is bounded to the east by the River Ivel; Beeston Green lies at approximately 80 feet above sea-level. As would be expected near a river, the superficial geology is made up of river terrace deposits - sand and gravel formed up to two million years ago. The solid, or underlying, geology is Oxford Clay. The Green is generally a flat site comprising amenity grass, wildflower areas, areas of bulb planting, trees of different age ranges and recreational facilities (children's play area).

### **3.8 Ecology**

Although the site is generally comprised of informal grass, which offers more limited opportunities for wildlife, improvements have been made over the years by the Beeston Green Wildlife Group to diversify the habitats and encourage nature on the site. Work has included the planting of spring bulbs and wild flowers, hay rakes and the clearing of the bordering culvert.

Foxes, muntjac deer and hares have been seen on-site as well as a variety of birds including moorhens, pheasants, sparrow hawks, woodpeckers and in winter redwings and fieldfares.

### **3.9 Enhancing Biodiversity**

The Town Council will look to work with community partners to protect and enhance the Green's biodiversity wherever possible. To include liaising with groups such as the Task Team and wildlife groups on such things as the control of nettles, tree maintenance, the planting of bulbs and wild flowers, monitoring the state of the planters.

Where possible the Town Council will liaise with community groups to incorporate works, such as tree works, into enhancing biodiversity via community projects.

### **3.10 Facilities**

Beeston Village Green contains the following facilities;

Children's play facilities for children up to nine years of age.

Public benches, notice boards and waste bins.

Memorial picnic table with benches (Funded and installed by Beeston Green Open Gardens)

### **3.11 Permitted Public Routes and Rights of Access**

The Greensand Ridge Walk crosses Beeston Village Green via a public right of way. The Greensand Ridge Walk is Bedfordshire's premier long-distance walk and spans the county for a total of 40 miles, following the greensand ridge. Section 4 passes Old Warden Tunnel Nature Reserve, the attractive village of Northill with its 14th century church, and Beeston Green before ending in Sandy. The walk then proceeds northwards from Sandy and finishes near Gamlingay.

### **3.12 Access to Properties Along the Green**

Properties bordering the Green need to cross the Green to access the property. For the majority of properties this involves crossing the verging of the Green rather than the Village Green itself. Many properties have access across the Green included in the deeds of their properties. In some cases, properties do not have access included in the deeds and historically access has always been granted over the Village Green to the owners of the relevant properties.

The part of the Green over which access is permitted is in the ownership of the Town Council. The maintenance and upkeep of the access track is the responsibility of the owner of the property. The access track may not be paved and must only be gravelled. Any work to the track must be agreed with the Town Council.

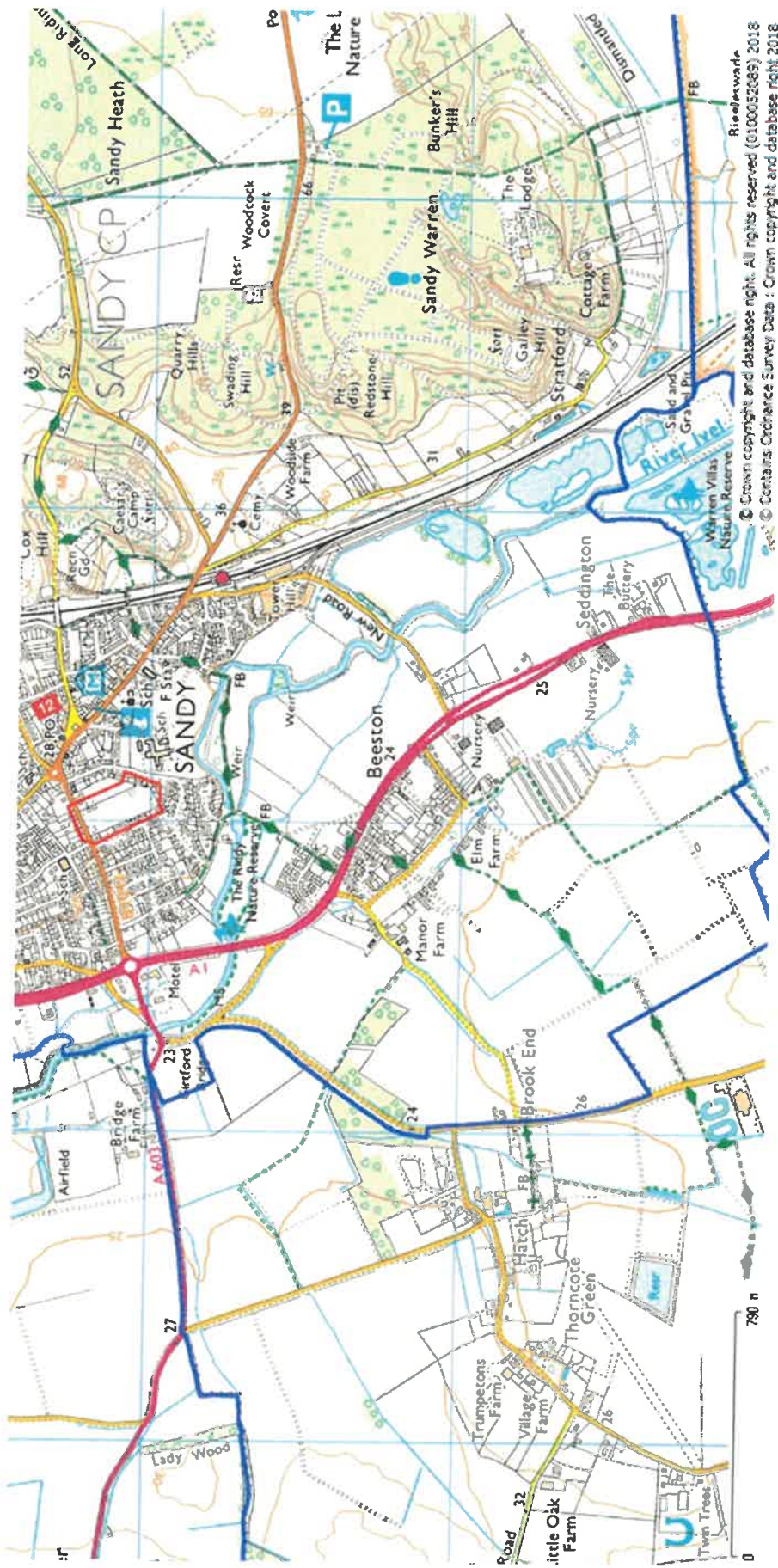
Access to any new residential developments over the Village Green must be sought from and granted by the Town Council.

### **3.13 Maps and Plans**

On the following pages, please find:

- Location map of Beeston
- Plan map of Beeston Village Green
- Aerial image of Beeston Village Green

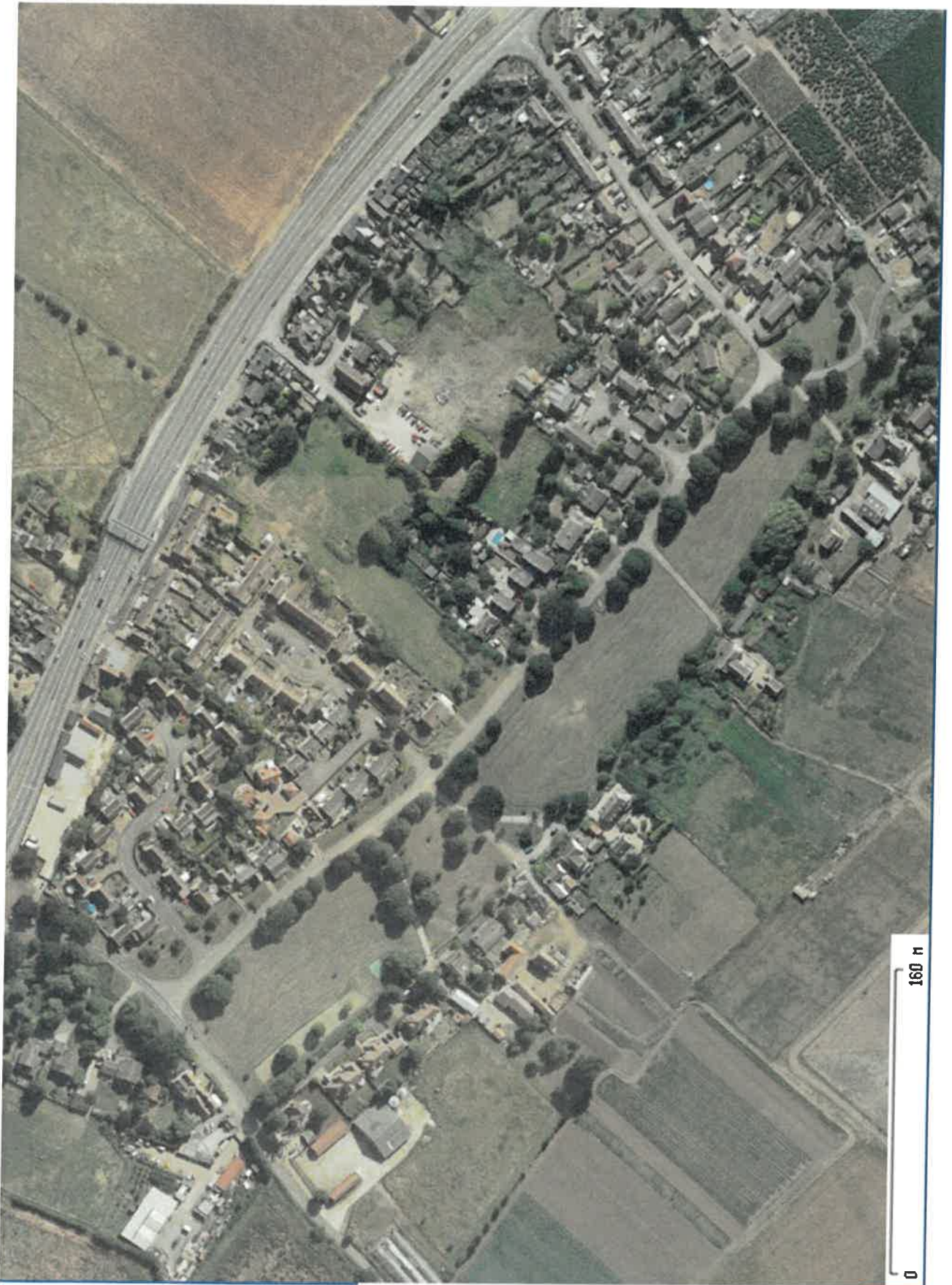




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## **Maintenance of Beeston Village Green and its Assets**

Central Bedfordshire is the area in which the Green is located and Sandy Town Council has responsibility for the maintenance, protection and upkeep of the Green. Maintenance work is carried out by Sandy Town Council's Grounds Maintenance Team and via work contracted to Central Bedfordshire Council and independent contractors when necessary.

Over the years the residents of Beeston and in particular the Beeston Wildlife Group, the Beeston Task team and Beeston Open Gardens Group have been active in preserving and looking after the Green and engaging in practical work such as planting of containers.

The total budget set aside by the Town Council for management of the Green is c. £500 per annum (excluding grass cutting and tree maintenance). This budget is to cover unexpected maintenance work to the Green. The benches and children's play facilities are covered by other Council budgets along with other Council owned play facilities and benches. The Town Council maintains an arboriculture budget for the maintenance of all its tree stock. This budget was increased to £6,068 in the 2018/19 financial year.

All budgets are reviewed by Council on an annual basis.

### **3.14 Grass Cutting and Weeds**

Most grass cutting is carried out by the Town Council grounds staff, but some larger areas, which require gang mowers, are contracted out.

At present the grass on the Green is cut by Central Bedfordshire Council as part of the Town Council's grass cutting contract. Town Council grounds staff also undertakes inspections of the general condition of the Green.

The grass cutting season is normally from March to October depending on the weather. Average mowing frequencies are up to 15 cuts a year under the contract between STC and CBC, but these may vary depending on growing conditions.

The mowing height varies from site to site depending on the use of the site and how even the surface is.

The Town Council's outdoor team will spray or cut back nettles on the western verges of the Green prior to the start of grass cutting and will endeavour to keep these under control.

Complaints about grass cutting should be directed to the Town Council who will record the issue and bring it to the attention of Central Bedfordshire Council's Waste Manager, who will direct their contractor accordingly.

### **3.15 Bulbs, wildflowers/planters**

Planters on the Village Green are maintained by volunteers from the village and replanted at least twice a year. Areas of the Green have been planted with spring bulbs but the wild flowers along the perimeter have largely disappeared as a result of encroachment by nettles.

### **3.16 Moles**

Beeston Green suffers from mole activity, which can become extreme towards the centre of the site. The Town Council has the responsibility of clearing moles from the site and shall organise this via an outside contractor.

Any required mole treatment will be arranged as required via a qualified company and a method of fumigation will be used due to the level of pedestrian activity in the area.

Residents should report any mole activity to the Town Council.

### **3.17 Pest Control**

Reports of pest activity, such as rats should be reported to the Town Council for investigation. The Council will take advice from Central Bedfordshire Council and engage suitable pest control where required. Rat boxes will be maintained on the area of land known as 'Willow Island'.

### **3.18 Play Area**

The site has a children's play facility consisting of;

- Balance Beam – Alpine
- Log Walks
- Roller Balance Beam
- Rope Walk
- Step Links
- Rope Bridge
- Rocker Board
- Roller Barrel
- Suspended Balance Beam
- Swing – Mixed, 2 Junior 2 Toddler Seat

Weekly safety inspections of all play equipment are carried out by members of the town council outdoor team. Only members of staff who have attended and achieved a RoSPA certification will carry out inspections.

Replacement play equipment or parts will be organised and funded by Sandy Town Council should equipment become dangerous and required closing or removing.

In 2017 a play value review of the park was carried out by Central Bedfordshire Council. The review found that the park did not meet the number of play element requirements and recommended additional equipment by installed.

A consultation survey carried out in May 2017 identified the need for sliding as an additional play element. The Town Council are working with Central Bedfordshire Council to consider how missing play elements can be added to the existing equipment and a slide will be added during 2018.

### **3.19 Benches and Notice Boards**

The Town Council maintains five benches around/on Beeston Green which are there for the enjoyment of local residents and visitors. Benches will be checked regularly, and repairs carried out as required. There are two notice boards at Beeston Green for the purpose of sharing community information. The notice boards were installed at the same time, one by the Town Council and one by the Beeston Green wildlife trust. The boards will be checked regularly and repaired by the Town Council as required.

Permission was granted for the installation of a memorial picnic bench which was donated by Beeston Green Open Gardens in memory of Poppy Cope. Volunteers will check the state of the bench and report any serious maintenance problems to the Town Council. [A litter bin has been installed next to the bench by the Council](#)

Benches can be purchased as memorials please contact the Town Council for more information.

## **4. Trees**

The responsibility for the maintenance and protection of trees on the Village Green lies with the Town Council. The Council has recently agreed a service contract to have trees on the Green surveyed, tagged and assessed.

### **4.1 Tree Inspection and Surgery**

A tree inspection survey was carried out in 2017, where trees on the Village Green were assessed, tagged and catalogued. The results of this and future surveys are reported to Council with recommendations for any work that is required. The report and catalogue of trees will be made available to volunteer groups if requested.

Following the initial 2017 base line report annual visual ground level inspections of the trees will be carried out by the Town Council's contractor. Any recommendations as a result of those visual inspections will be reported to Council for action.

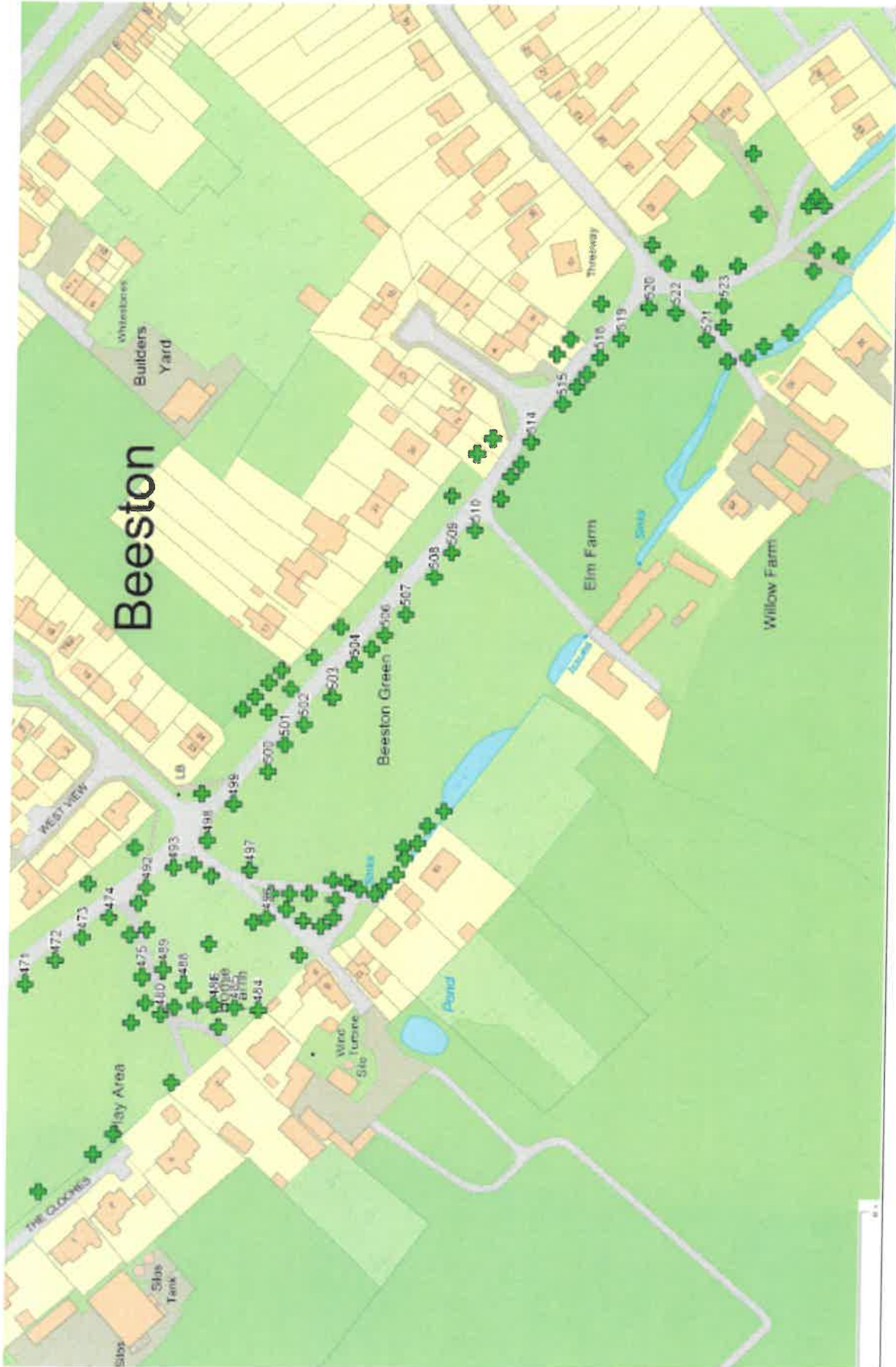
Tree works will be carried out upon the recommendation of the surveyor and will be covered by the council's horticultural budget for the maintenance of trees.

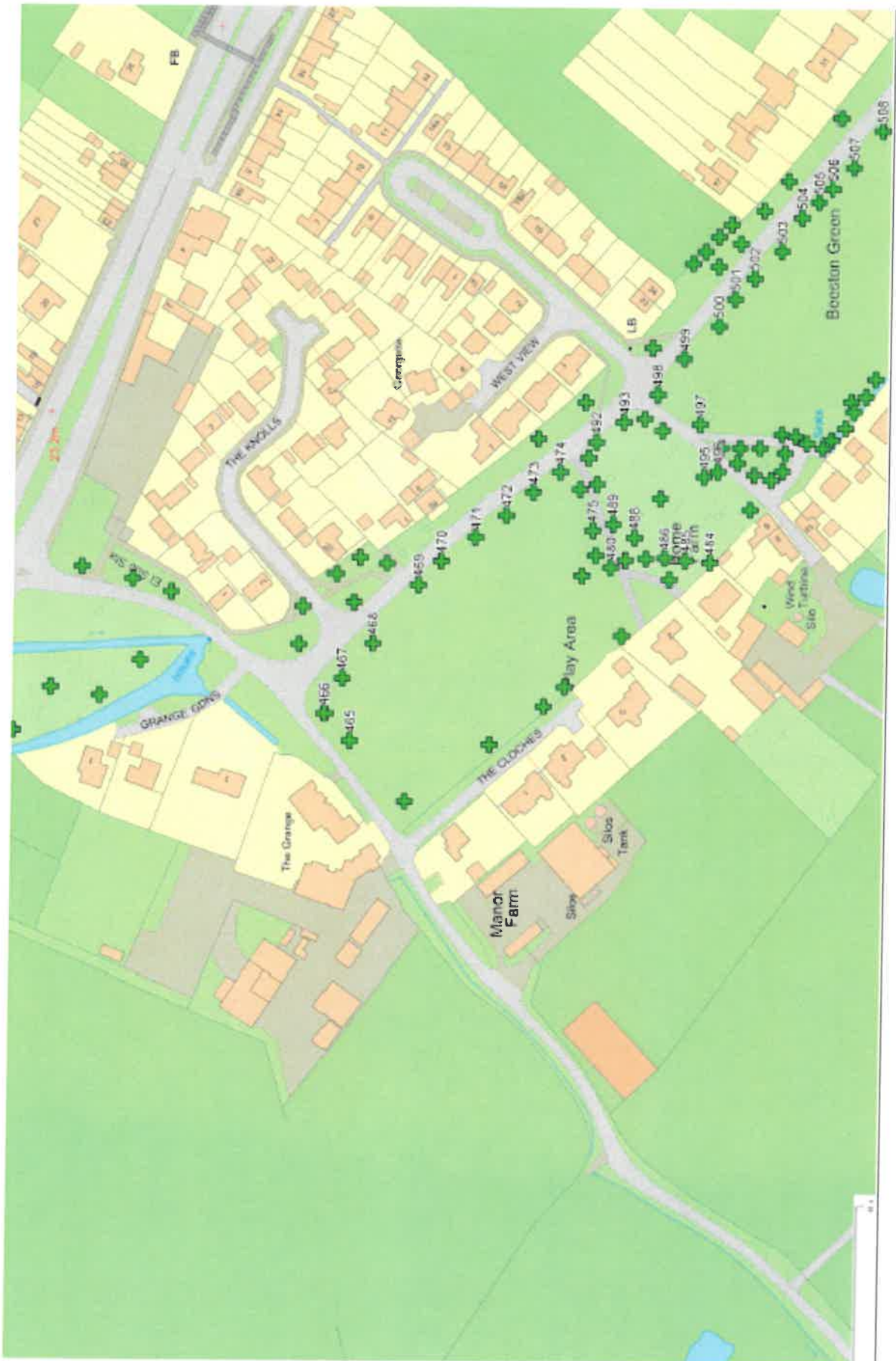
The Council carried out work to trees on The Green in 2018. Work was in line with the 2017 survey recommendations. Any concern about individual trees should be raised with the Town Council, who will seek advice and recommendation on any required work.

### **4.2 Replacement of Trees**

The removal of any tree on the Village Green will only be carried out upon the recommendation of the Council's tree contractor. The Town Council will assess and make a decision on the replacement of any tree that is removed on a case by case basis. The Council will aim to carry out like for like replacement after consultation with local groups. The cost of replacing a tree will be met by the Council's horticultural budget.

### 4.3 Map of Trees







## 5. Works Schedule

The maintenance schedule includes that main features that make up the fabric of the Green and the maintenance operations for each.

Feature	Maintenance	
Informal Grass (Main Green)	Cutting of grass	Grass cutting carried out between March – October. Typically 6 inch in length.
Grass Verge	Cutting of grass	Grass cutting carried out between March – October. Typically 6 inch in length.
Nettles	Spraying and strimming of encroaching nettles	Spray ahead of commencement of grass cutting (March/April)
Tree	Inspection Cutting Replacing and expanding variety and stock	Annual As required As required
Shrub	Kept weed free Mulching Pruning	
Bulbs	Cutting of long/informal grass where bulbs are planted	Once a year
Wildflower Areas	Tending the culvert-side borders	Once a year
Litter	Litter picking Emptying of bins	Central Bedfordshire Council – weekly
Furniture	Clean and paint Repair/replace	Annual As required
Graffiti	Removal of obscene/offensive words Removal of other	Within 1 day of reporting Within 3 days of reporting
Playground	Visual inspection Detailed inspection ROSPA standard	Weekly Monthly Annual
Monitoring of grass cutting contract	On going review of quality of work by outdoor team	As required
Infrastructure Inspection	Inspection	Annual
Biodiversity opportunities and actions	Inspection, enhancement when necessary	As required

## **6. Use of Beeston Village Green**

### **6.1 Horse Riding**

Horse riding is not permitted on the Village Green.

### **6.2 Littering & Dog Fouling**

The Council provides 4 bins around the Green which are emptied by CBC on a weekly basis. Bins will be reviewed annually and if a replacement bin is required the Town Council will source and fund a suitable replacement.

Dog mess is a continual and unpleasant problem which we seek to discourage by working with Central Bedfordshire Council to provide dog waste bins and suitable signage. Dog waste bins are emptied by Central Bedfordshire Council on a weekly basis during throughout the year. Bins and signage will be assessed by the Council regularly and requests submitted to CBC should the Town Council feel replacement or additional bins, or signage are required.

### **6.3 Use of Metal Detectors**

Local authorities have the power to ban metal detecting and other activities through the use of byelaws. In the absence of any such byelaws or other specific restrictions on metal detecting on land owned, leased or managed by the Council / Charity, the use of metal detectors on such land is regulated by the Council's policy on Metal Detecting. A copy of that a policy can be found in **Appendix A** on page 20.

In the case of Beeston Village Green use of metal detectors are strictly prohibited on the Green unless under exceptional circumstances express permission is granted by the Town Council.

In line with the Council's Metal Detector Policy any requests must be in writing and will be reviewed by the Community Services and Environment Committee.

### **6.4 Drones and Model Aircraft**

Casual use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or drones requires the permission of the landowner.

No person shall in the ground release any power-driven model aircraft for flight or control the flight of such an aircraft.

No person shall cause any power-driven model aircraft to take off or land in the ground.

No Person shall release, take off or land any drone model.

Please refer to the Council's Drone Policy in **Appendix B** on page 23.

## **6.5 Community Events/Usage**

Beeston Village Green is a community facility which the Council maintains for the benefit and enjoyment of residents. While locals and visitors alike are free to use the Green for their enjoyment organised public events must be approved by the town council.

Any person/group wishing to hold an event on the land must write to the town council for permission and state;

- The nature of the event
- The purpose of the event (is fundraising)
- The expected number of people
- The timings of the event
- The activities which will form part of the event

Permission will be granted by the Town Clerk in conjunction with the Council's Events working group, which consists of three Councillors. For clarification as to what is classed as an event please contact the Council for guidance.

Casual picnicking is permitted but the Green must be left totally free from litter and damage afterwards.

The use of BBQ's on the Village Green is prohibited unless permission has been sought from and granted by the Council in relation to an event.

Carrying and discharging guns on the Green is strictly prohibited.

## **6.6 Sports**

The playing of golf is prohibited on the Village Green as well as any other unsupervised activities involving a hard ball.

## **6.7 Camping and Unauthorised Encampments.**

Camping is not permitted on the Green under any circumstances.

If Beeston Village Green is subject to unauthorised access and encampment the Council will follow its agreed Unauthorised Encampment policy and procedure which will seek to protect the Village Green via the removal of any unauthorised persons. A copy of the Council's Unauthorised Encampment Policy and Procedure is available on the Town Council website or by contacting the Council.

## **7. Parking and Traffic Movement**

Increased vehicle movement and parking on the verges of the Village Green results in damage to the Green itself. Parking is not permitted on the Green. Problems are increasing, and equitable outcomes are essential. Parking of both commercial and personal vehicles is prohibited, and letters will be issued to vehicles who park on the Green as a regular arrangement.

## 7.1 HGV Movement

Following Consultation by Central Bedfordshire Council a weight restriction has been placed on Orchard Road in 2017 to prevent HGV usage of the road and alleviate some of the pressures created by HGV movement. Any concerns about the enforcement of the weight restriction should be addressed to Central Bedfordshire Council.

It is recognised that HGV movement is a problematic issue for Beeston Green and damage to the Green itself. The situation is to be constantly monitored and any problems should be reported to the Town Council who will raise the matter with Central Bedfordshire Council.


## 8. Useful Contacts

Issue	Contact	Name	Number	Email
Trees Maintenance of benches, bins, notice boards Planters Play park	Town Council	Chris Robson  Richard Gilbert	01767 681 491	<a href="mailto:clerk@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk">clerk@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk">admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
General Concerns	Beeston Green Working Group	Max Hill  Mike Scott  Tracey Stock		<a href="mailto:amaxhill@outlook.com">amaxhill@outlook.com</a>  <a href="mailto:scott729@btinternet.com">scott729@btinternet.com</a>  <a href="mailto:tracey.stock@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">tracey.stock@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Grass Cutting Waste	Central Bedfordshire Council	Craig Siddle	0300 300 8301	<a href="mailto:Customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">Customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Flooding & Drainage	Central Bedfordshire Council		0300 300 8301	<a href="mailto:Customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">Customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/planning/flooding/downloads.aspx">www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/planning/flooding/downloads.aspx</a>  See also Appendix C - Flood Guide
Pavements	Central Bedfordshire Council Highways		0300 300 8301	<a href="mailto:Customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">Customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Footpaths across Green	Greensands Trust		01234 743666	

## **9. Monitoring and Review**

This plan will be discussed with residents of Beeston Green and its associated community groups. Once the Council have agreed on a final version of the management plan it will be reviewed every four years or following a change in circumstances which requires an additional review.

## APPENDIX A – METAL DETECTOR POLICY

	<b>Sandy Town Council</b> <b>Metal Detector Policy</b>	Adopted: November 2016 Review: November 2024
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### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 From time to time, Sandy Town Council may receive requests for permission from individuals or organisations wishing to carry out metal detecting on land owned, leased or managed by the Council. This document sets out the policy of the Council regarding such requests and is effective from the date that it is adopted.
- 1.2 Local authorities have the power to ban metal detecting and other activities through the use of byelaws. In the absence of any such byelaws or other specific restrictions on metal detecting on land owned, leased or managed by the Council / Charity, the use of metal detectors on such land is regulated by this Policy.

### 2. Policy

- 2.1 Metal detecting is unauthorised in all areas of land owned, leased or managed by the Council unless in exceptional circumstances and under the following conditions:
- 2.2 All requests for metal detecting must be made in writing to the Town Clerk detailing:
- the scope and purpose of the proposed metal detecting activity;
  - the exact location of the proposed activity;
  - the date and duration of the activity;
  - a guarantee of full re-instatement (to the satisfaction of the Asset Manager) of any area that has been subjected to any form of excavation by the activity, along with a guarantee to cover any expenses incurred by the Council if the re-instatement fails to meet the standards required
- 2.3 Metal detecting is normally not authorised in areas consisting of closely mown and carefully cultivated turf and flower beds; play areas; dedicated sports areas; sites of archaeological, botanical or scientific interest; allotments; or areas much used by blind or disabled persons; however the Community Service and Environment Committee may authorise one-off permission in these areas in the following circumstances;
- a. to allow individuals to search for a particular lost object, in which case absolutely no excavation will be allowed.

- b.** for particular archaeological or scientific purposes in relation to works being executed by the Council.
  
- 2.4** Any permissions granted will be in writing from the Council: Metal Detecting Policy 02.08.16 - 2 - Review 02.08.20 a. authorising the scope and purpose of the proposed metal detecting activity, the exact location of the proposed activity, the date and duration of the activity, and any other relevant restrictions, all of which may, at the discretion of the Town Clerk, be a more restricted location/scope and/or time frame. b. outlining what constitutes full re-instatement (to the satisfaction of the Asset Manager) along with a reminder that costs will be charged by the Council if the re-instatement fails to meet the standards required.
  
- 2.5** Persons carrying out metal detecting activity must be members of a recognised metal detecting club or archaeological research organisation and abide by whatever code of practice that the club or organisation commits to (preferably the Code of Conduct of the National Council for Metal Detecting).
  
- 2.6** Where organisations have been granted permission to carry out metal detecting, the organisation will ensure that all members understand and abide by any terms of the permission granted.
  
- 2.7** All finds must be reported to Sandy Town Council. If live ammunition or other hazardous objects are found, the person carrying out the metal detecting activity must mark the spot clearly and report the find to the Police and Council immediately.
  
- 2.8** All treasure as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, together with any artefacts including, amongst others, metal objects (including coins, weapons and jewellery etc.) worked flints, pottery, building materials, slags and worked bone shall remain then property of the Council. The rules and procedures as set out in the Treasure Act 1996 and any subsequent revisions or amendments which may come into force will need to be followed and complied with.
  
- 2.9** All Councillor's will be informed by the Town Clerk of any permissions granted.
  
- 2.10** Tenants of land owned by Sandy Town Council will be provided with a copy of this Policy and will be made aware that it is their duty to ensure that its details are complied with.

## APPENDIX B – DRONE POLICY

### SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

#### Drone Policy

- 1.1 This policy governs the flying of model planes and drones on Council land.
- 1.2 The take-off and landing of drones, model planes or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) is generally prohibited from Council land without the express permission of the Town Council.
- 1.3 If a person or company wants to launch a drone or unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), (including those carrying photographic equipment for commercial purposes) from land or on property owned or controlled by the Council, permission must first be sought and granted from the Community Services and Environment Committee.
- 1.4 The CAA Drone code says that drones should not be flown within: 150ft (50m) of people and properties or 500ft (150m) of crowds and built-up areas. This means that the parks and other sites that the Council own are generally not suitable for the flying of drones because they are too close to buildings and/or too busy with visitors to make the flying of drones safe.
- 1.5 **Permission to launch a drone or UAV from a Council owned site will not generally be granted in relation to any public parks or open spaces in Council ownership**, unless the intended purpose is for education, promotion of the place (eg tourism) or there is a compelling commercial reason.
- 1.6 Individuals caught launching or landing UAVs on Council owned land without the required permission shall be required to cease immediately.
2. **Guidance on Flying Drones and Model Planes**
  - 2.1 If the Council does grant permission for launching of drones or UAVs on Council owned land operators must follow the guidelines detailed below.
  - 2.2 For the safety of our staff and other site users, UAV operators must follow the Drone Code. Anyone flying drones on Council sites in breach of this code will be reported to the CAA.



2.3 If you are wanting to fly a drone or model aircraft you now have to be registered. This includes the below:

- Anyone who wishes to fly a drone must pass a theory test to get a flyer ID
- The person that is responsible for the drone or model aircraft must register to get an operator ID

More details regarding registration can be found on the Civil Aviation Authority website

2.4 The following rules must be followed;

- Your drone must weigh under 20kg
- You can't fly above 400 feet in altitude or 500 metres from you horizontally
- Ensure your drone is always in sight
- Always keep away from aircraft, helicopters, airports and airfields
- Use your common sense and fly your aircraft safely
- Any drone weighing more than 250 grams must be registered with the CAA and the drone pilot must complete an online safety test, obtaining a Flyer ID and an Operator ID that should be attached to the Drone.
- You must not fly within 50 metres of people, vehicles, buildings or vessels
- Your drone must not be flown within 150 metres of a congested area or any large group of people such as a concert or sporting event as you may be prosecuted
- If you intend to record in an area where people are, you must inform them before you start, as you will need to respect privacy, or risk being prosecuted

2.5 The UK has many restrictions on where drones can be operated. The Air Navigation Order provides that, without explicit permission from the CAA, drones may not be flown

- within 150 metres of, or over, a congested area;
- within 150 metres of, or over, an organized open-air assembly of 1,000 or more people;
- within 50 metres of any vehicle, structure, or vessel that is not under the control of the operator; or
- within 50 metres of any person not under the control of the operator.

2.6 Operators **Should:**

- be courteous of other park users including people walking dogs;

- keep the UAV in full view at all times (eg. not operated through binoculars, video monitor or smartphone, unless an observer is present);
- fly in daylight hours only;
- cease operation if requested by council staff
- Any breaches of the code of conduct could result in the council terminating your permission to fly UAVs on public land.

2.7 All Town Council owned land covered by this policy;

- Beeston Village Green
- Sunderland Road Recreation Ground
- Fallowfield Recreation Ground
- Bedford Road Recreation Ground
- The Limes Recreation Area
- The Riddy Nature Reserve
- The Pinnacle (Leased)
- Sandy Cemetery

2.8 If your drone is fitted with a camera there are additional regulations you must follow;

- You must not fly within 50 metres of people, vehicles, buildings or vessels
- Your drone must not be flown within 150 metres of a congested area or any large group of people such as a concert or sporting event as you may be prosecuted.
- If you intend to record in an area where people are, you must inform them before you start.

If you intend to use the drone for commercial purposes you must have permission from the CAA and comply with additional laws governing their use. To get guidance on operating permissions for drones see the CAA's website for the latest information and regulations regarding drone use.

## APPENDIX C

### CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

A letter was issued to all residents of Beeston informing them that Sandy Town Council had developed a draft management plan for Beeston Village Green. Residents were invited to view the plan online and via hard copies available at the Town Council office. The Council asked for feedback from residents on the plan via a written response to some key questions or by participating at a public meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

Below is a summary of comments received from residents;

#### ***Respondents key message.....***

'The Village Green is very important to us'

#### ***Feedback received on the plan.....***

The Plan shows clearly who is responsible for Beeston Green

The Plan should include a list of contacts with relevant contact numbers

The Budget for maintenance is probably less than would be desired

The playing of Golf and Football have historically been prohibited on The Village Green, why has this not been included in the Plan

The Plan contains no innovative proposals regarding the challenges facing The Village Green

#### ***On things that matter to you.....***

The loss of a sense of community following a reduction in amenities over the years (Post office, public house....)

Can more community events happen to help build a sense of community and fully utilise The Green?

The state of nettles on certain areas of The Green is out of hand and action needs to be taken to cut these back

A bench has subsided and needs attention. The grass around the bench is extremely overgrown

Grass cutting needs to be carried out in the centre of the children's play area

Passing vehicles along the road adjacent to The Green can be difficult, could some of the verging be used to create a passing bay?

Disappointed to see no pragmatic suggestions on reducing parking issues on The Village Green

***On safety concerns.....***

No problem with parking on the Green, however the area is one of the most polluted places in England due to the A1, this is a more pressing issue.

Using the footpath along that A1 is incredibly dangerous and poses safety concerns

Absence of 'No HGV' signage at the A1 end of Beeston Road

The 50mph speed limit is ineffective

**Incorporating feedback into the Plan**

- Suggestions made by residents have been incorporated into the Beeston Village Green Management Plan, including guidance on football and golf and the inclusion of a contact list.
- The Council's outdoor team followed up on concerns over nettles and grass cutting. The contract with Central Bedfordshire Council on grass cutting at Beeston Green is under review and any changes will be incorporated into the Management Plan.
- The Council's outdoor team have carried out an audit of benches around the Green and are making repairs where necessary.
- Average speed cameras are due to be installed during the 2018/19 budget year which should make the speed limits on the A1 more effective.
- Once the plan is in action negotiations with individual residents will take place on issues around parking on The Green and damage caused to grass.